

U.S. Embassy Dhaka Cautions Against Diversity Visa Scams

The U.S. Embassy in Dhaka reminds Bangladeshi citizens and residents to use caution when working with private entities to apply for visas to the United States, as reports of fraudulent e-mails, websites, and print advertisements offering visa services are common. In particular, one widespread Diversity Visa (DV) scam e-mail instructs recipients to send money via Western Union to a fictitious person at the U.S. Embassy in London. If you have received this e-mail, you have been targeted by con artists. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES should money be sent to any address for participation in the DV Lottery.

Successful DV-2011 applicants already have been notified by the Department of State's Kentucky Consular Center (KCC) by letter, not by e-mail. DV-2011 entrants also can check the status of their entries at <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov> until June 30, 2011. Entrants will not be asked to send money to the KCC or any U.S. embassy or consulate.

DV-2012 applicants will never receive correspondence containing information on an applicant's status, but will only receive notification directing them to check their status on the official website. They must check the status of their entries themselves through the Entrant Status Check available at <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov> between May 1, 2011, and June 30, 2012.

Images of U.S. emblems such as flags, eagles, monuments, or official seals do not necessarily indicate a U.S. Government website. A domain name of ".gov" ensures that a website is a legitimate U.S. Government site where the information is free and up-to-date. Complaints about unwanted e-mails that may be scams can be sent to the U.S. Department of Justice at www.usdoj.gov/spam.htm.

For more information, read our press release about this issue dated January 25, 2011 at http://photos.state.gov/libraries/bangladesh/8601/2011%20Press%20Releases/US_Embassy_Consular_Sections_Fraud_Warning.pdf.